

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to provide access to services of an online commerce site that includes a plurality of servers, the method ~~including~~ comprising:

receiving an access request from a client;

~~responsive to a request received from a user, determining an identity of the user;~~

identifying a first server of the plurality of servers to which to direct the [[user]] client for service by the online commerce site; [[and]]

generating an access rule associated with the client and the first server; and

transmitting the access rule to the client ~~an identifier for the first server to the user so as to enable the user to direct a request for service to the first server of the plurality of servers.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first server of the plurality of servers is identified based on the identity of the [[user]] client.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of servers includes a second server that provides a service level different from that of the first server, and wherein the access rule ~~first server of the plurality of servers~~ is [[satiated]] associated with the [[user]] client based on a service level agreement between the [[user]] client and the online commerce site.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of servers includes API servers for servicing an API function call [[calls]] received from the [[user]] client.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the access rule is ~~the identifying the first server of the plurality of servers to which to direct the user for service~~ further includes ~~identifying the first server of the plurality of servers to which to direct~~ based on the API function call.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the online commerce site is a network-based auction site.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including ~~wherein the identifying further includes~~ searching a database table for a record containing an access rule ~~the identifier~~ to reply to the client.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the access rule includes identifier ~~for the first server to the user so as to enable the user to direct a request for service~~ is a URL.

10. (Withdrawn) A method to facilitate access to an online commerce site, the method including:

receiving a request from a client at the online commerce site for an access rule; and  
replying to the request with the access rule, the access rule being to direct the client to an  
API server upon performing an API function call.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the API function call is to perform a function to facilitate the online commerce.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the API function call is to retrieve information regarding items that are available for transaction via the online commerce site.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the access rule includes a URL that addresses the API server.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the access rule includes a CallName that describes the API function call associated with the access rule being returned.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the request includes an application ID to identify the access rule being returned.
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the request includes a developer ID to identify the access rule being returned.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the request includes a session certificate in order to validate the client making the request.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 further including:  
responsive to receiving the request from the client, searching a database table for a record containing the access rule to reply to the client.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the searching of the database table is to locate an access rule based on an identity of the client.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the online commerce site includes a plurality of API servers, and the access rule is to direct the client to the API server in order to provide the client with a predetermined level of service associated with the API server.
21. (Currently Amended) A method to facilitate access to services on an online commerce site, the method ~~including comprising~~:  
receiving a service request from a client for ~~[[to]]~~ access to a service on a server supporting the online commerce site, the service request including at least a portion of an access rule associated with the client and the server, the access rule having been previously provided to the client by the online commerce site an identifier of a client; and  
validating the service request based on the ~~[[an]]~~ access rule ~~stored on the server associated with the identifier.~~

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22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the validating includes validating the service request based on whether a URL in the access rule is associated with the server.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[21]]~~ wherein the access request includes identifier is an application identifier.
24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[21]]~~ wherein the access request includes identifier is a developer identifier.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[21]]~~ wherein the access request includes identifier is a session certificate.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the access rule includes identifier is a CallName.
27. (Original) The method of claim 21 further including providing the access to the service.
28. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the server is an online auction server.
29. (Withdrawn) A method to facilitate access to an online commerce site, the method including:  
requesting an access rule from a server;  
receiving the access rule, the access rule includes a URL of an API server; and  
performing an API function call to the URL of the API server.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 further includes storing the access rule in a data store.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 further including obtaining the URL associated to the API function from the access rule stored in the data store.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein the requesting being periodically scheduled to be performed.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein the server is an online commerce auction server.

34. (Withdrawn) A method to facilitate access to an online commerce site, the method including:

searching for an access rule in a data store, the access rule includes a URL of an API server; and

performing an API function call to the URL of the API server.

35. (Withdrawn) A method to facilitate access to an online commerce site, the method including:

receiving a request from a client to perform a transaction on a server;

determining the client has not exceeded a maximum rate usage level; and

performing the requested transaction.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of transactions.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of calls per day.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of calls per hour.

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39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of simultaneous calls.
40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the maximum rate usage level the time of day.
41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the request is from an API function call.
42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the server is an online auction server.
43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the performing includes increasing the rate usage counter and returning a number of transaction results up to the number the maximum rate usage.
44. (Withdrawn) A system, including:  
a network;  
an application server capable of making a API function call; and  
an API server to transmit an access rule to the application server via the network upon receiving a request for the access rule from the application server, the access rule includes a URL.
45. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44 wherein the API server validates the API function call based on whether an identifier stored in the request is associated with an identifier stored in the access rule.
46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 45 wherein the API server validates the API function call based on whether the URL in the access rule is associated with the API server.
47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44 wherein the API function call is via a URL request string.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44 wherein the application server stores the retrieved access rule in a data store.

49. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44 wherein the application server obtains the URL from the retrieved access rule to determine an API server to make a transaction request within an API function call.

50. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44 wherein the API server receives the transaction request and performs the transaction request upon determining whether the maximum usage rate limit is not exceeded.

51. (Withdrawn) A machine-readable medium having executable instructions to cause a machine to perform a method including:

receiving a request from a client at an online commerce site for an access rule; and  
replying to the request with the access rule, the access rule being to direct the client to an  
API server upon performing an API function call.

52. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the API function call is to perform a function to facilitate the online commerce.

53. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the API function call is to retrieve information regarding items that are available for transaction via the online commerce site.

54. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the access rule includes a URL that addresses the API server.

55. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the access rule includes a CallName.

56. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the request includes an application ID to identify the client.

57. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the request includes a developer ID to identify the client.

58. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the request includes a session certificate to identify the client.

59. (Withdrawn) The machine readable medium of claim 51 further including:  
responsive to receiving the request from the client, searching a database table for a record  
containing the access rule to reply to the client.

60. (Withdrawn) The machine readable medium of claim 51 wherein the searching of the database table is to locate an access rule based on an identity of the client.

61. (Withdrawn) The machine readable medium of claim 51 wherein the online commerce site includes a plurality of API servers, and the access rule is to direct the client to the API server in order to provide the client with a predetermined level of service associated with the API server.

62. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having executable instructions to cause a machine to perform a method ~~including~~ comprising:

receiving a service request from a client for [[to]] access to a service on a server supporting the online commerce site, the service request including at least a portion of an access rule associated with the client and the server, the access rule having been previously provided to the client by the online commerce site an identifier of a client; and



validating the service request based on the ~~[[an]]~~ access rule ~~stored on the server~~  
~~associated with the identifier.~~

63. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 62 wherein the validating includes validating the service request based on whether a URL in the access rule is associated with the server.

64. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 85 ~~[[62]]~~ wherein the access request includes identifier ~~is an application identifier.~~

65. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 85 ~~[[62]]~~ wherein the access request includes identifier ~~is a developer identifier.~~

66. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 85 ~~[[62]]~~ wherein the access request includes identifier ~~is a session certificate.~~

67. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 62 wherein the access rule includes identifier ~~is a CallName.~~

68. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 62 further including providing the access to the service.

69. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 62 wherein the server is an online auction server.

70. (Withdrawn) A machine readable medium having executable instructions to cause a machine to perform a method including:

requesting an access rule from a server;

receiving the access rule, the access rule includes a URL of an API server; and

performing an API function call to the URL of the API server.

71. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 70 further includes storing the access rule in a data store.

72. (Withdrawn) The machine readable medium of claim 71 further including obtaining the URL associated to the API function from the access rule stored in the data store.

73. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 70 wherein the requesting periodically scheduled to be performed.

74. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 70 wherein the server is an online commerce auction server.

75. (Withdrawn) A machine-readable medium having executable instructions to cause a machine to perform a method including:

searching for an access rule in a data store, the access rule includes a URL of an API server; and  
performing an API function call to the URL of the API server.

76. (Withdrawn) A machine-readable medium having executable instructions to cause a machine to perform a method including:

receiving a request from a client to perform a transaction on a server; determining the client has not exceeded a maximum rate usage level; and  
performing the requested transaction.

77. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of transactions.

78. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of calls per day.

79. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of calls per hour.

80. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the maximum rate usage level is a maximum number of simultaneous calls.

81. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the maximum rate usage level the time of day.

82. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the request is from an API function call.

83. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the server is an online auction server.

84. (Withdrawn) The machine-readable medium of claim 76 wherein the performing includes increasing the rate usage counter and returning a number of transaction results up to the number the maximum rate usage.

85. (New) A machine readable medium having executable instructions to cause a machine to perform a method comprising:

receiving an access request from a client for access to services of an online commerce site that includes a plurality of servers;

identifying a first server of the plurality of servers to which to direct the client for service by the online commerce site;

generating an access rule associated with the client and the first server; and

transmitting the access rule to the client.